

12/11/1967

MR. WONDERFUL - THAT'S LEN

By "CHILTERN"

Guildford City 2, Wycombe Wanderers 2.

THERE were just 60 seconds of this F.A. Cup first round tie to go. Guildford were winning 2-1 and the 5,300 crowd was beginning to sift out of the ground. Then Wanderers were awarded a free-kick on the half-way line. Charlie Gale hit the kick hard and high right across the field to the unmarked Len Worley on the right wing. Len trapped the ball, pushed it forward and let fly.

And that was it. The ball was still rising as it bulged the back of the net at the end of its 30-yard journey. The Guildford defenders gaped in disbelief as Worley was mobbed by his delighted team-mates.

That is how Wanderers earned their Wednesday replay. They had been winning 1-0 at half-time and just about deserved their lead. They had taken a bit of a drubbing in the second-half as the fast, direct star-studded Guildford forward line clicked into gear.

This game was played throughout in real cup-tie atmosphere. The crowd was enthusiastic and the play was rugged, end-to-end stuff.

Wanderers' lead came on the half hour. Paul Bates, playing in his unaccustomed position of left-winger sent over a corner. It dropped behind the forwards and Keith Samuels coolly turned round and executed a perfect scissors-kick, thumping the ball over his shoulder into the goal.

WENT CLOSE

Tony Horseman and Peter Royston had previously gone close for Wycombe and Stevens the ex-Swindon centre-forward had fluffed a chance for Guildford.

Eight minutes after Wycombe had taken the lead, Horseman was extremely unlucky with a good shot, being inches wide with Vaspar well beaten.

After the interval Guildford turned on the pressure and Maskell was given a busier time. The Wycombe keeper did well to catch a high cross from Cliss and then could only parry a hard shot from the same player. Ian Rundle was on hand to clear from the line.

Guildford continued to press

turning point. They were awarded a penalty after a handling offence by Rundle. Massey took the spot-kick and Maskell made a brilliant diving save.

But a linesman was standing near the goal flagging furiously. He ruled that Maskell had been standing in front of the line when the kick was taken, and the referee ruled that it be taken again. Massey made no mistake.

This goal spurred the home side on to even greater efforts and it was just reward when in the 75th minute left-winger Seth Vafiadis scored from a Stevens pass.

BLASTED OVER

Maskell made yet another good save from Colfar and Stevens missed a sitter when he blasted the ball over from under the bar.

Then came the last-minute incident which led to Wycombe's equaliser. It's ironic really that Worley did not have a happy afternoon. He was chaired from the field by a group of cheering Wycombe fans and later, in the dressing room, he told me: "Glad it went in. It was the first good thing I'd done all afternoon."

I think he'll be forgiven.

The rest of the team? They all played well. Horseman was perhaps a bit quieter than usual, Royston did what was required of him in keeping the huge Guildford centre-half French quiet, and John Beck completed an admirable job in holding ex-Wolves and Everton star winger Micky Lill.

Dave Bradshaw was always solid in defence and Barry Baker showed some nice touches.

Guildford — Vaspar; Hunt, Watts; Massey, French, Porter; Lill, Cliss, Stevens, Colfar, Vafiadis.

Wycombe — Maskell; Bradshaw, Baker, Butler, Rundle, Gale, Miskin.

FLAG KEPT FLYING BY WYCOMBE

By DAVID MILLER

ON a bad afternoon for the amateurs in the FA Cup, Wycombe managed to become the only representatives in today's sixth round draw, by snatching a replay in the last minute at Guildford.

They had led through Samuels at half-time, but then Massey (penalty) and Vafiadis, formerly of Queen's Park Rangers, put Guildford in front.

The Southern League side were apparently coasting through when a speculative 25-yard drive by Worley, the former England amateur outside-right, flew into the net.